

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 7, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 7, 2004. Claims 1-5, 7-28, 30-32 and 35-44 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 3-5, 38 and 43 stand rejected by the examiner. Claims 36 and 41 stand objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 7-28, 30-32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42, and 44 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 36-37 and 41-42 stand objected to by the examiner. Claims 36-37 and 41-42 are amended to correct matters of form. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 38 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 3-5, 38, and 43 have been amended to clarify the invention. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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